deterred by the monotonously repeated demonstrations of its inevitable failure to bring satisfaction; yet when it involves millions dying where previously thousands died, an expenditure reckoned in milliards instead of in millions, then, surely, it must be abandoned. Machiavelli's cynical precept that, though 'everyone admits how praiseworthy it is in princes to keep faith and live with integrity and not with craft, our experience has been that those princes who have done great things have held good faith of little account,' may hitherto have been borne out by experience, Mr. Eden argues, but has now been invalidated by 'the greater interdependence of the modern world, the constant contacts, the reduction and indeed the virtual elimination, of the problems which distance once created/ In the same way, it might be argued that whereas hitherto it was legitimately complained that the wicked prospered, non-stop electric trains between Brighton and London have rendered such a complaint obsolete; or that though it unquestionably used to be foolish to lay up treasure on earth for rust to corrupt, the invention of stainless steel has made it foolish no longer. In 1139 the Lateran Council pronounced the cross-bow 'too murderous a weapon for Christians to employ against one another'; and doubtless there were Christians who, in the light of this pronouncement, looked forward to a quiet life in the enjoyment of whatever possessions an unscrupulous use of the long-bow had procured for them. If so, they were disappointed. Similarly, when during the Crimean War the War Office rejected a proposal to make use of sulphur fumes in attacking Sebastopol, on

the ground that [4]an operation of this nature would contravene the laws of civilised warfare*, some may have assumed that the use of poison gas in war need not be dreaded. The use of each new weapon seems inconceivable, until it has been used long enough to become familiar.

The fact that in contemporary warfare the home front is as perilous as any other, has certainly led to an abatement in martial ardour among those who formerly had a reasonable expectation that in the event of a war their lives would be regarded as too